

## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson  
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair  
Leslie Mayer  
Donald Vitters  
Elena Bartholomew  
Crissy Tarantino, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015  
Arlington Senior Center  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew, Associate Member Crissy Tarantino and Associate Member Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Natural Resources Supervisor Jeff Rikeman, resident Becky Edmondson and resident Mustafa Varoglu.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the October 13, 2015 and October 27, 2015 minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

The Commission formally welcomed new Associate Commission Member Crissy Tarantino and congratulated former Associate Member and newly appointed Commissioner Elena Bartholomew.

#### **Open Forum – Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Arlington Public School Request to use a portion of the Pheasant Avenue Field for the Stratton Elementary School Rebuild**

Dr. Bodie reviewed the plans for temporary modular classrooms at the Stratton School. Dr. Bodie stated that a small portion of the end units would be on Park Commission property. The Commission reviewed the proposed site map with Dr. Bodie as she discussed the preliminary design. Dr. Bodie indicated that all other storage and construction would take place on school property. Dr. Bodie indicated that the intent is for the students to still use as much of the playground and field space as possible. Mr. Connelly stated that he would have to inspect the swing area for proper safety zones once the modular classrooms are in place.

Dr. Bodie explained that she would add language in the construction bid documents that states the Park and Recreation areas must be restored to their current condition or better upon completion of the project.

**422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474**  
**Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495**

## **TOWN OF ARLINGTON**

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson  
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair  
Leslie Mayer  
Donald Vitters  
Elena Bartholomew  
Crissy Tarantino, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### **Recreation Department**

Ms. Rothenberg discussed salvaging a portion of the irrigation system during construction so that the existing lawn areas would benefit. Ms. Rothenberg also asked that the contractor be asked to stay off the grass area as much as possible.

Mr. Connelly asked about the estimated time frame. Dr. Bodie stated that the plan was to install the modular units in August of 2016 and hopefully remove them in August of 2017. Mr. Vitters inquired about necessary foundations for the modular units.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the proposed use of Pheasant Avenue Park, as described to the Commission by the Arlington Public School Department, during the Stratton Elementary School Renovation project; with the condition that all park property, including the field, playground and retaining wall, be restored to their existing condition or better at the conclusion of the project. The Commission also requires the playground to be inspected prior to use by the Arlington Recreation Department to check for proper safety zones for the swing set. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 5-0.

### **Discussion with Natural Resource Supervisor Jeff Rikeman**

Mr. Connelly introduced Mr. Rikeman to the Commission. Mr. Rikeman reviewed his current job scope and gave a summary of the departmental responsibilities. Ms. Bartholomew asked how many employees were in the Natural Resources Division. Mr. Rikeman stated that at any given time between 5-9, that included him and those who may be out on temporary disability. The Commission discussed the benefits of field maintenance training with Mr. Rikeman. The Commission also discussed the necessity of getting ahead of any irrigation issues by proper opening and closing of the system. Mr. Rikeman also stated that it was important for the user groups to let him know if they see potential irrigation issues at a field early so that they can be addressed before any significant damage is done.

The Commission discussed Mr. Rikeman being invited to attend the Park and Recreation Commission Meetings periodically throughout the year. Mr. Rikeman will join the Commission again at the January or February meeting.

### **Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park Jason Street Fencing Repair Request**

Ms. Becky Edmondson reviewed the proposal to repair/replace the iron fence on Jason Street at Menotomy Rocks Park. Ms. Edmondson reviewed the two bids. The low bid was from Somerville Iron Work Inc.

Option 1 – Remove/dispose existing wrought iron fence and replace with new painted black - \$7,200

Option 2 – Remove/dispose only 2 sections and replace with 2 new sections painted black - \$2,500

Option 3- Lightly scrape and paint black - \$4,000

**422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474**  
**Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495**

## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson  
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair  
Leslie Mayer  
Donald Vitters  
Elena Bartholomew  
Crissy Tarantino, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### Recreation Department

Ms. Edmondson stated that the friends are prepared to pay half of whatever option the Commission chooses but is recommending option 1.

The Commission discussed the options in detail. Mr. Connelly stated that he had no funds to assist with this project and would have to ask the Department of Public Works. Mr. Connelly suggested that this project may have to wait and see if funding was available at the end of the fiscal year.

The Commission discussed the need for a maintenance fund for these types of maintenance issues. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to ask the Town Manager for a meeting to discuss the need for a maintenance fund. Ms. Mayer said that the Town Manager stated at last Town Meeting that the outdoor spaces would be included in the maintenance fund discussions.

Mr. Connelly will have a conversation with Mr. Rademacher about the fencing project and report back to the Commission. Mr. Connelly and the Commission thanked Ms. Edmondson for all of her hard work on this issue.

### Special Requests

Cause and Effect Event May 22, 2016 – The Commission reviewed the request. Ms. Bartholomew asked if it was the softball field or the baseball field. Although the request said baseball last year they used the softball field. Mr. Connelly stated he would double check before granting the permit. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

### Capital Project and CPA Updates

ADA- Mr. Connelly stated that he talked to Berkshire Associates and that they were doing survey work and after that was complete would be setting up a meeting to discuss how to proceed. The Commission discussed having a public input meeting once preliminary plans for the upgrades were available.

Spy Pond Tennis – Mr. Connelly stated that the punch list was just about complete and that the contractor would be asked to come back in the spring and hydroseed some of the bare areas. Mr. Connelly stated that there is a resident who may donate windscreen for the courts. The Commission appreciated the gift but asked Mr. Connelly for more details about the screen and placement. The concern was the ability to see through the courts for security as well as keeping the feeling of openness that was created with the renovation.

Summer Street – Mr. Connelly stated that he is waiting for approval for funding to move forward with the feasibility study.

**422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474**  
**Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495**

## **TOWN OF ARLINGTON**

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson  
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair  
Leslie Mayer  
Donald Vitters  
Elena Bartholomew  
Crissy Tarantino, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### **Recreation Department**

Community Preservation Act – Ms. Mayer again briefly reviewed the status of the CPA process with the Commission. The Commission again discussed the need for a maintenance fund. Mr. Vitters stated that the Commission should start to formulate its own maintenance list to have on file.

#### **Commission Topic Leader Discussion**

Off Leash Park Program – Mr. Connelly reviewed the off leash public meeting. The minutes/notes from the meeting will be available for approval at the December meeting. Mr. Connelly suggested developing a task force to review the suggestions from the meeting and to make recommendations back to the Commission. The Commission discussed Mr. Connelly's suggestion. Ms. Canniff stated that she felt the enforcement and ticketing needed to happen before any other changes. Ms. Mayer agreed with ticketing and enforcement at stated that she would like to have the Animal Control Officer at a meeting for a discussion before moving forward with a task force.

Mr. Varoglu stated that he felt that increased signage was also necessary to assist with enforcement and rules awareness. Mr. Connelly stated that was one of the areas he would like the task force to make recommendations on.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to support strict enforcement and to look at the developing of a task force to investigate other possible solutions to the issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

#### **Other**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

**422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474  
Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495**